

Phonics for Parents

Ashmole Primary School

Letters and Sounds 

Jolly
Phonics

What is Phonics?

Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the sounds that make up each word.

This helps children to learn to read and spell words.

Phonics consists of:

- identifying sounds in spoken words
- recognising the common spellings of each sound
- blending sounds into words for reading
- segmenting words into sounds for spelling

Terminology

Phonemes

- The sound a letter makes.
- Sometimes letters work together but still make **one** sound eg ai
- The smallest unit of sound in a word.

These words each have three phonemes (separate sounds).

Each of these phonemes is represented by a grapheme.

A grapheme may consist of one, two, three or four letters.

Graphemes

- A letter (or a number of letters) that represent a sound (phoneme).

c	a	t
f	i	sh
sh	o	p
n	igh	t

Terminology

Segmenting

- Means breaking words down into their phonemes to spell

e.g. c/a/t

c a t
• • •

sound buttons

Blending

- This is the reverse of segmenting. When you blend you build words, from their phonemes, to read.

Terminology **Grapheme** key vocabulary

Digraph

- 2 letters making one sound
(ai, ee, oo)

Rain, sheep, mooon

Can you think of others?

Trigraph

- 3 letters making one sound
(igh, air, ear)

High, hair, beard

Can you think of others?

Split Digraph

- Where the two letters are not adjacent (a-e, o-e)

Name, hope

The TRICKY English Language

Just when children have mastered the graphemes that correspond with the phonemes (e.g. p-l-ay) they then realise that there can be many choices as to which grapheme to use.

a—paper

ay—play

ey—they

a-e—spade

eigh—eight

ei—vein

ai- plain

So, the more support and opportunities they have to practice their 'Letters and Sounds' the better!

Letters and Sounds



Phase One (Nursery/Reception)

Activities are divided into different aspects: *including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration and voice sounds.*

Phase Two (Reception)

Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.

Phase Three (Reception)

The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions.

Letters and Sounds



Phase Four (Reception)

No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.

Phase Five (Year 1)

Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know eg ee, ea.

Phase Six (throughout year 2 And beyond)

Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.

Letters and Sounds



Phase 2

Set 1: s, a, t, p

Set 2: i, n, m, d

Set 3: g, o, c, k

Set 4: ck, e, u, r

Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

Phase 3

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Consonant digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng

Vowel digraphs: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er

High Frequency Words

There are many words that recur frequently in much of the written material young children read and write.

Phase 2

a, an, as, at, if, in, is, it, of, off, on, can,
dad, had, back, and, get, big, him, his,
not, got, up, mum, but, put

Phase 3

will, that, this, then, them, with, see,
for, now, down, look, too, he, she, we,
me, be, was, you, they, all, are, my, her

Tricky Words

Some of the words that recur frequently, cannot be sounded out and are learnt as 'sight words'.

Phase 2

I
no
go
to
the
into

Phase 3

he
she
we
me
be
you
all
are
her
was
they
my



The 42 Letter Sounds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8>

Phonics for Parents

Activities

Letters and Sounds 

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Helping at Home

- ❖ Quick write - race with your child to write down words which use the sounds they know
- ❖ Make a set of cards with the sounds and use these to make the words. Give them the first 6 sounds and get them to make a word and then change one letter at a time to make a new one. Gradually introduce a few more phonemes from the list.
- ❖ Display six objects and nine words and see if your child can match them finding the three extra words.
- ❖ Let your child pick a card and then draw and label all the things you can think of that have that phoneme in them.
- ❖ Add sound buttons to a list of words using coloured pens.
- ❖ Use magnetic letters to make words and swap these around like the cards above.
- ❖ Pretend to be a robot and get your child to say and write the word that you are trying to say.
- ❖ Treasure Game - A set of 10 words on cards with 5 incorporating the sound you are working on and 5 that don't. Can they sort them into a treasure box. (Maybe decorate a cereal box in wrapping paper)

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.familylearning.org.uk

www.letters-and-sounds.com

Thank you

